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1 thermometers, eyeglasses, steam engines, typewriters and
2 batteries; and

3 WHEREAS, a great many Americans have enjoyed the
4 entertainment provided by Italian Americans, such as hall of
5 fame baseball player Joe DiMaggio, singer and songwriter Frank
6 Sinatra, world-renowned composer Henry Mancini and Oscar-
7 winning actor Robert DeNiro; and

8 WHEREAS, great Italian American political figures, such as
9 Fiorella La Guardia, who was both mayor of, then congressman
10 from, New York City; Anthony Celebrezze who, in the Kennedy
11 administration, was the first Italian American cabinet member;
12 and Antonin Scalia who, in 1982, became the first Italian
13 American supreme court justice, have enriched the political
14 process and brought national pride to our country; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Pete Domenici is not only the longest
16 serving Italian American senator ever to serve in the United
17 States senate, but he is also the longest-serving New Mexico
18 senator; and

19 WHEREAS, over five million four hundred thousand Italians
20 immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 1991, which
21 has resulted in there being over twenty-six million Americans
22 of Italian descent in the United States today, making them the
23 fifth-largest ethnic group; and

24 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, during the early part of that
25 immigration period, many Italian immigrants worked in the

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1 mining industry and were instrumental in its development and
2 growth; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico's history and diversity have been
4 greatly enriched by the participation of its Italian American
5 citizens; and

6 WHEREAS, there have been and continue to be outstanding
7 contributions to the politics, culture and economy of New
8 Mexico by its Italian American population;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 11, 2003 be designated as
11 "Italian American Day" at the legislature in recognition of the
12 contributions of Italian Americans, including our own United
13 States Senator Pete Domenici, to the greatness of our state;
14 and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appropriate program of
16 activities be scheduled by the legislature for that date.

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